

OFFICIAL

JUN 10 2004

2

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated February 12, 2004, the Examiner states that Claims 1-4 are pending, Claims 1 and 2 are rejected, and Claims 3 and 4 are withdrawn. By the present Amendment, Applicants amend the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over US 4,594,923 (Fujita) in view of JP 63196314 (Nishigaito), GB 1,074,662 and US 6,074,192 (Mikkelsen). The Applicants respectfully consider that the amended claims overcome these rejections.

Support for the added matter in the preamble of Claim 1 may be found on page 1, lines 13-18 of the specification. Support for the added matter in steps d) and e) may be found on page 16, line 27 through page 17, line 12 of the specification.

The amended Claim 1 now specifies that the synthetic resin sheet has a first pair and a second pair of opposite side portions, and the first pair of opposite side portions is cut, then the second pair of opposite side portions is cut, to compensate for the expected expansion of the synthetic resin sheet when cooled to a reduced temperature.

None of the cited references relate to cutting a synthetic resin sheet, and none of the references disclose the steps of cutting both a first pair and a second pair of opposite side portions to compensate for the expected expansion of the synthetic resin sheet. Thus, the Applicants consider the amended claims to be patentable over the cited references.

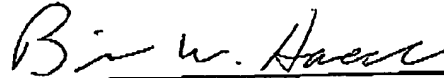
3

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicants respectfully submit that this application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

June 10, 2004

Date



Attorney for Applicant
Brian W. Hameder
c/o Ladas & Parry
224 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 427-1300
Reg. No. 45613